CHAPTER 8: TRADE YOU FOR A PIECE OF STRAW?

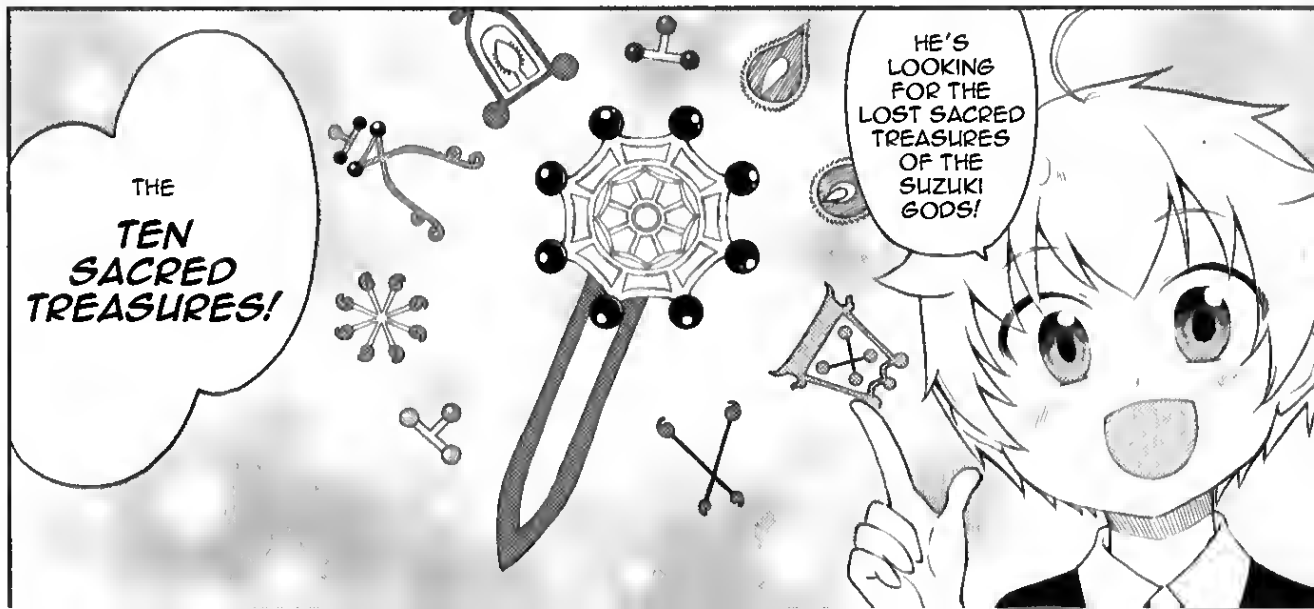
DAD WENT AWAY TO WHO KNOWS WHERE.
See you later!

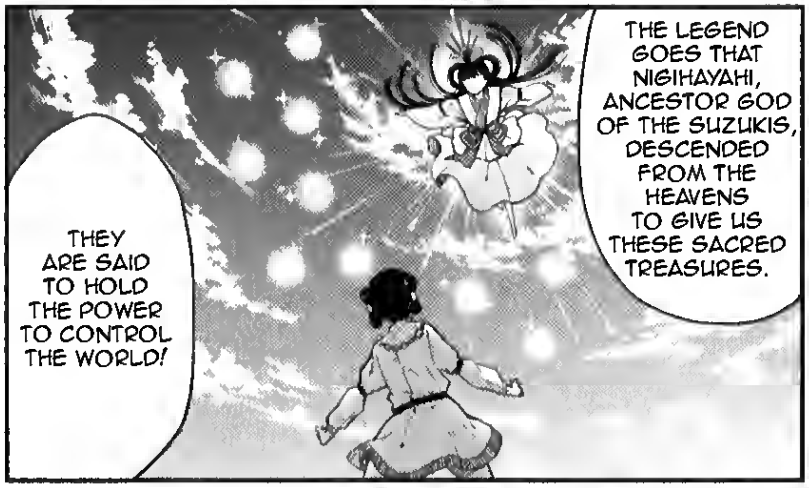
WHERE THE HELL IS ICHIRO WHEN YOU NEED HIM?
searching
WHERE IS HE?

ACK!!
HERE I AM! YOU CALLED?

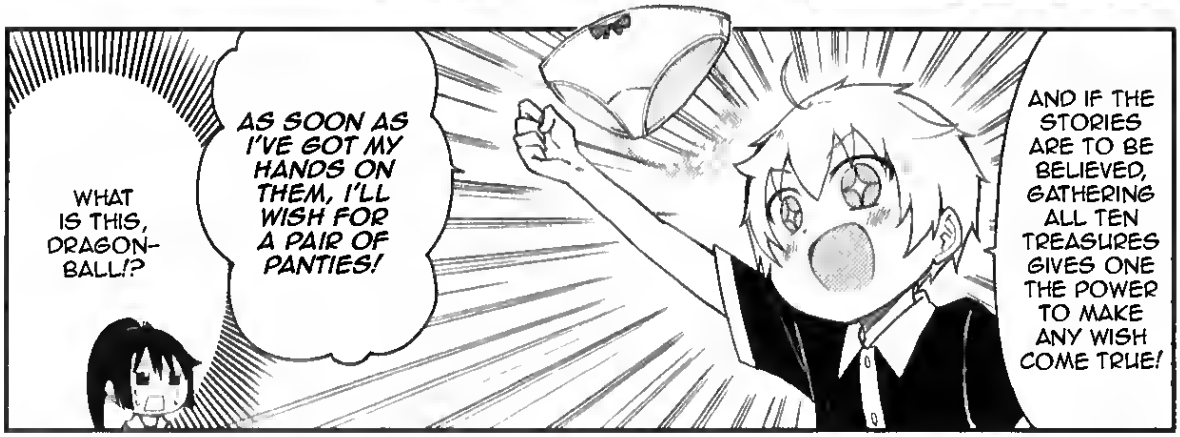
THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN AD FOR SOME SHITTY PART-TIME JOB.
I ASKED HIM TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
IT'S A SIMPLE JOB THAT ANYONE COULD DO!

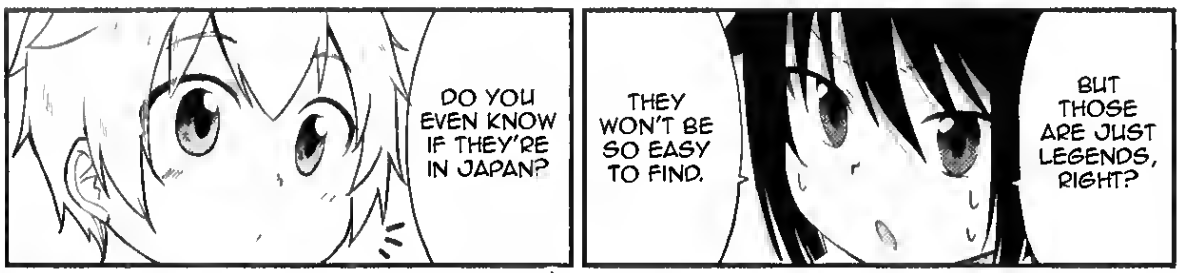
IT PISSES ME OFF THAT HE ACTUALLY CAME.
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO MY DAD?


THE TEN SACRED TREASURES!
HE'S LOOKING FOR THE LOST SACRED TREASURES OF THE SUZUKI GODS!


THE LEGEND GOES THAT NIGIHAYAHI, ANCESTOR GOD OF THE SUZUKIS, DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS TO GIVE US THESE SACRED TREASURES.
THEY ARE SAID TO HOLD THE POWER TO CONTROL THE WORLD!

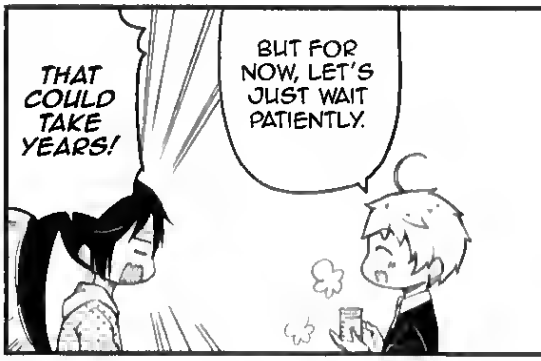
YOU MEAN LIKE THE ONES IN JAPANESE MYTHS?
OOH! SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THOSE!


AND IF THE STORIES ARE TO BE BELIEVED, GATHERING ALL TEN TREASURES GIVES ONE THE POWER TO MAKE ANY WISH COME TRUE!
AS SOON AS I'VE GOT MY HANDS ON THEM, I'LL WISH FOR A PAIR OF PANTIES!
WHAT IS THIS, DRAGON-BALL!?


BUT THOSE ARE JUST LEGENDS, RIGHT?
THEY WON'T BE SO EASY TO FIND.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW IF THEY'RE IN JAPAN?

I'M POSITIVE! THEY ARE SOMEWHERE IN THIS JUNGLE CALLED JAPAN!
THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING TEN SACRED TREASURES
ICHIRO SUZUKI'S EXPLORATION PARTY
Woah...
HE'S FULL OF SHIT.

LIVING ALONE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE BETTER FOR YOU, FINANCIALLY SPEAKING.
DAD'S INCOME OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS:
-500,000 YEN.
BUT ACCORDING TO YOUR ACCOUNT BOOK, YOUR FATHER'S INCOME IS NEXT TO NOTHING.
I KNEW IT!!
Account Book



RIGHT NOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU IS TO FIND A SOURCE OF INCOME, RIGHT?
WHY DOES IT PISS ME OFF SO MUCH WHEN HE'S BEING SERIOUS!?

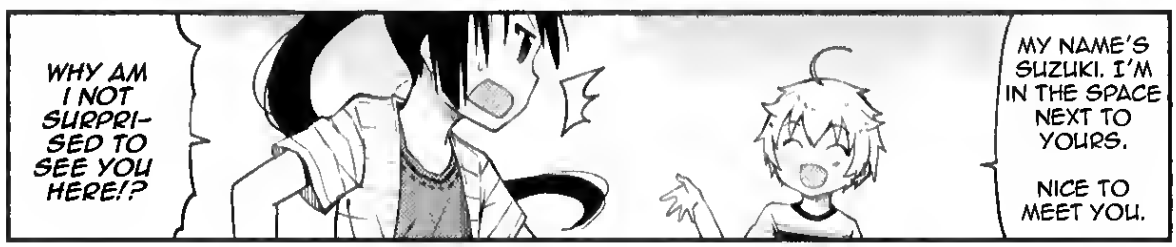
T/N: REFERENCE TO FINAL FANTASY V. THE TERM "FREELANCER" (ALSO "BARE" OR "NORMAL") IS USED FOR CHARACTERS WITHOUT A JOB.

DON'T WORRY!
I'M SURE YOU'LL GET YOUR FAMILY BACK SOON!
HUH?
For better or for worse
BUT DESPITE EVERY-THING, HE'S STILL MY DAD...
BUT HE'S RIGHT, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING...
I CAN EAT AT MY PART-TIME JOB THREE TIMES PER WEEK, BUT NO MORE THAN THAT...
YOU'RE ALL OUT OF FOOD.
BUT RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON YOUR FOOD SHORTAGE.
WHY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "BEFORE" AND "AFTER" SO EXTREME!?
IF WE DON'T ACT SOON, THE OUTCOME WON'T BE PRETTY.
before
LOSE WEIGHT WITH THE NEW FOODLESS DIET!
AIR FOOD!
DING
after
HMM?

SIGN: FLEA MARKET

I'M GOING TO SELL THE MOUNTAIN OF USELESS CRAP MY DAD BOUGHT.
SELLING THIS BY MYSELF FEELS A BIT WEIRD, BUT IT WILL HELP WITH OUR FINANCES.

T/N: THE LEFT DOLL SAYS "PACHIMON", WHICH ALSO MEANS "FORGERY" OR "SHAM".

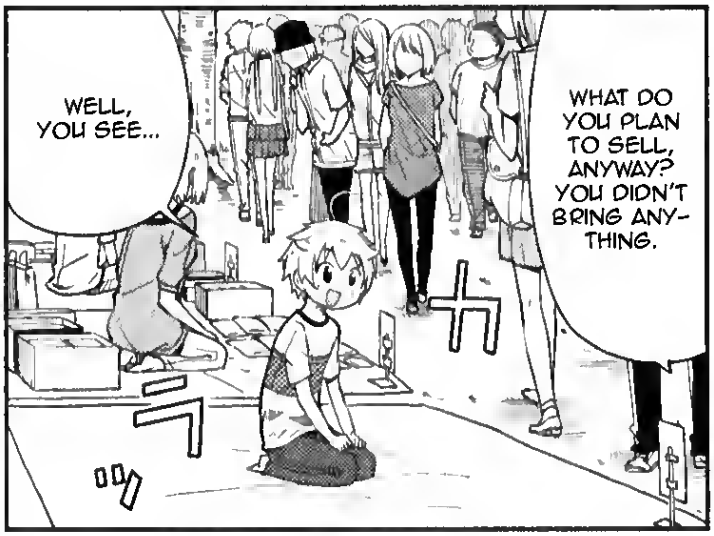


I'VE GOT THIS!

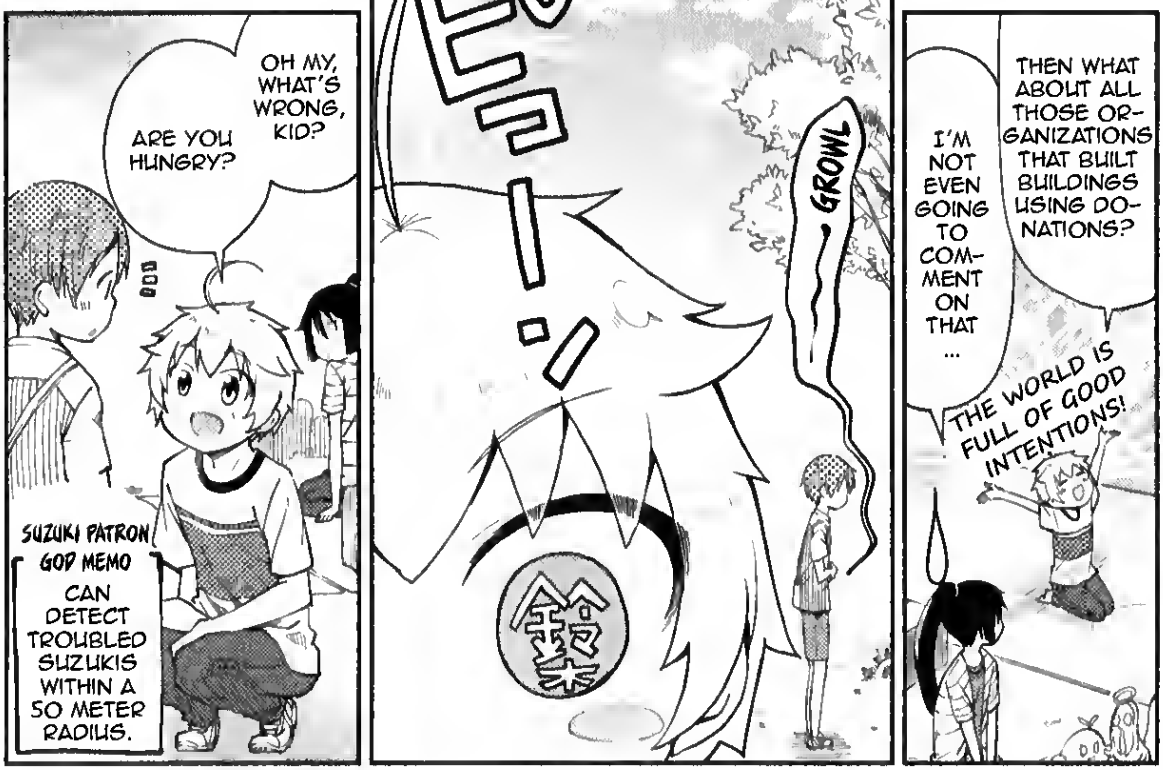
WE MUST BE TELE-PATHICAL-LY LINKED! ☆
sigh...
IT'S LIKE YOU CAN READ MY MIND...

I WON'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL!
IN FACT, I AM HERE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD FINANCES!
JUST DON'T BOTHER ME, OKAY?

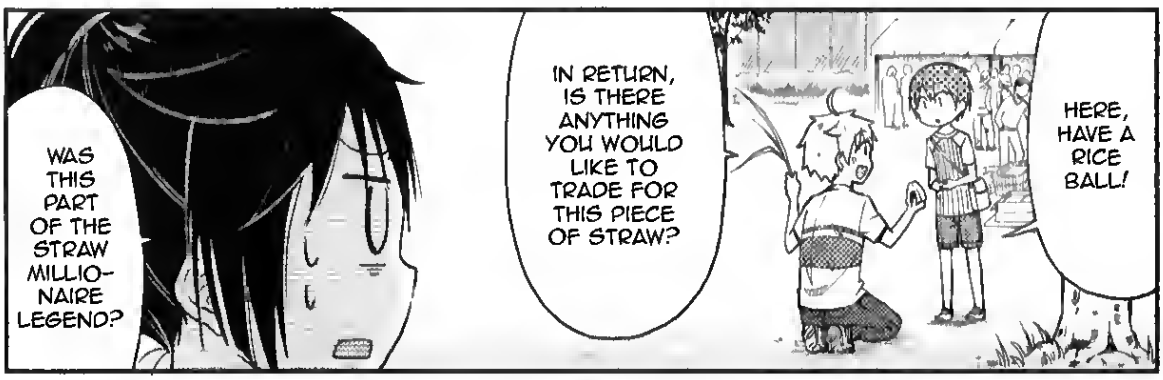
YOU'RE STILL SO COLD, MISA.
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.

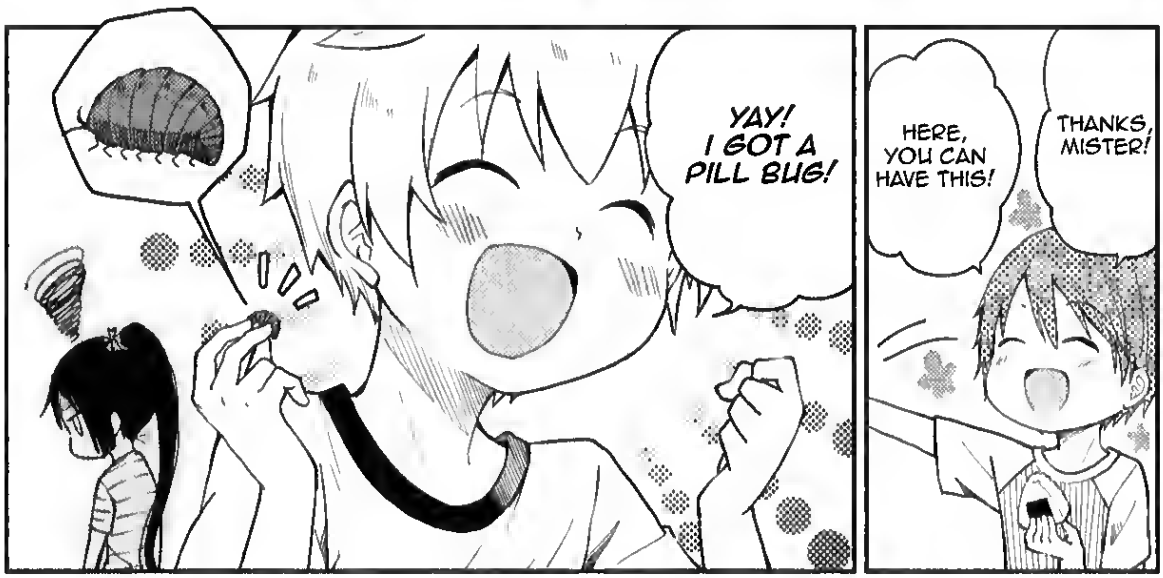

WELL, YOU SEE...
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO SELL, ANYWAY? YOU DIDN'T BRING ANY-THING.

WHY!?
I'M GOING TO TRADE THIS PIECE OF STRAW!
STRAW, HUH?
YEP!
DON'T YOU KNOW THE LEGEND OF THE STRAW MILLIONAIRE?
OF COURSE I DO, BUT...
T/N: LEGEND ABOUT A MAN WHO TRADED A SINGLE PIECE OF STRAW FOR INCREASINGLY VALUABLE ITEMS.
I WILL START WITH A SINGLE PIECE OF STRAW.
SPONGE
I'LL RELY ON THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE PEOPLE.
MITSUBISHI PAJERO
IN TIME, I'LL TURN THIS ONE STRAW...
...INTO THE ROPPONGI HILLS TOWER!
LIKE HELL YOU WILL!! IN JUST THREE STEPS!?


OH MY, WHAT'S WRONG, KID?
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
SUZUKI PATRON GOD MEMO
CAN DETECT TROUBLED SUZUKIS WITHIN A 50 METER RADIUS.
ピンーン
GROWL
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO COMMENT ON THAT ...
THEN WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT BUILT BUILDINGS USING DONATIONS?
THE WORLD IS FULL OF GOOD INTENTIONS!

EYE: SUZUKI


WAS THIS PART OF THE STRAW MILLIONAIRE LEGEND?
IN RETURN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRADE FOR THIS PIECE OF STRAW?
HERE, HAVE A RICE BALL!

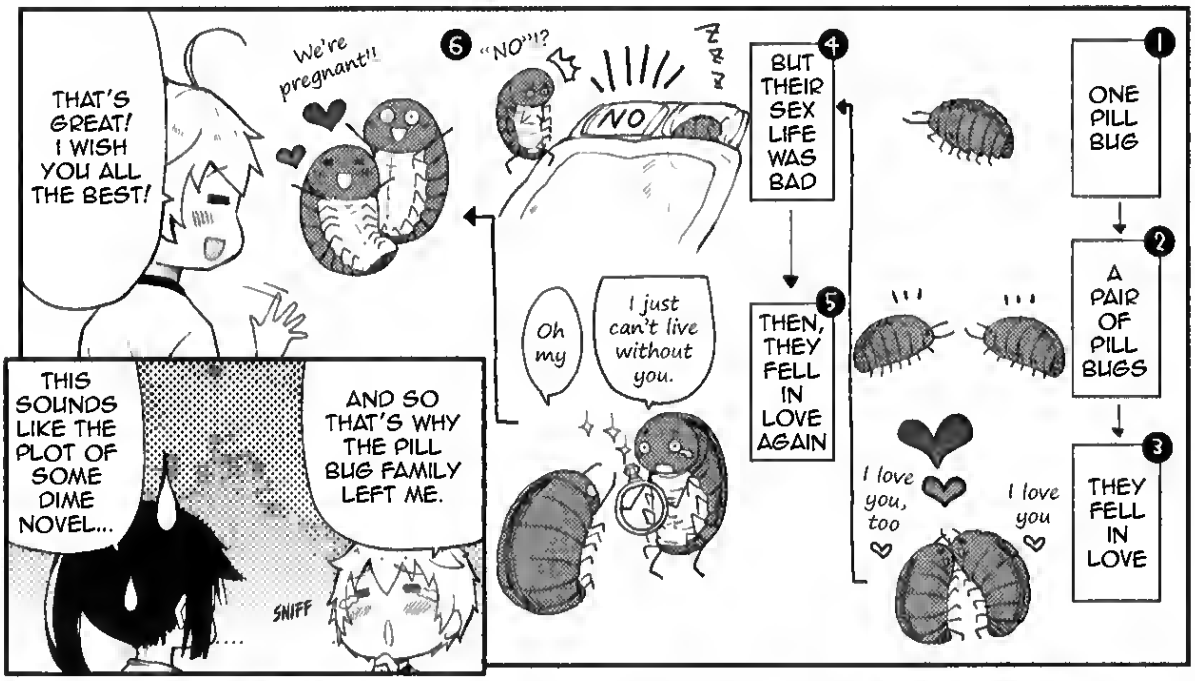

YAY! I GOT A PILL BUG!
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THIS!
THANKS, MISTER!

AH
HE'S BEING UNEXPEC-TEDLY NICE, THOUGH...
ピコ
DON'T YOU MEAN SMALLER?
I'M GOING TO KEEP TRADING FOR BIG-GER AND BIGGER THINGS!
glance
GOOD GRIEF... IS HE REALLY THAT NAIVE?

REMEMBER, GODS BRING YOU NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
NO, NO, DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU!
MISA!!

WELL ACTUALLY, THINGS WERE GOING REALLY WELL, BUT THEN...
SO MUCH FOR GOOD INTENTIONS, RIGHT?

WELL, I LOST EVERY-THING.


1 ONE PILL BUG
2 A PAIR OF PILL BUGS
3 THEY FELL IN LOVE
4 BUT THEIR SEX LIFE WAS BAD
5 THEN, THEY FELL IN LOVE AGAIN
6 "NO"!?
NO
I love you
I love you, too
Oh my
I just can't live without you.
We're pregnant!!
THAT'S GREAT! I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!
THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE PLOT OF SOME DIME NOVEL...
AND SO THAT'S WHY THE PILL BUG FAMILY LEFT ME.
SNIFF

LIKE THE ONE ABOUT IZANAGI, IZANAMI, AND THE BIRTH OF THE GODS.
REALLY? I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED MORE LIKE A STORY FROM "THE BIRTH OF JAPAN".
Second time sex after a marital quarrel
Third time, oh yes!
Fourth time sex, more!
8th time, let's try different positions
7th time, harder!
5th time, I'm coming!!
9th time, you're the best!
6th time, oh!!

T/N: LOOK UP "KUNIUMI" AND "KAMIUMI" ON WIKIPEDIA

I never wanted to be a god!
I want to help other people!
I'm a God!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT ARE GODS REALLY?
...I'll finally get my revenge on Ichiro.
Once I'm a god.

AND WHAT ABOUT THAT STORY ABOUT NIGIHAYAHI THE ANCESTOR GOD AND ABOUT THE TEN SACRED TREASURES? DOES THAT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME?
OH MAN, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT ALL MEANS...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I'M NEVER GOING TO SELL THIS JUNK...
EXCUSE ME...
UHM... YES?
THANK YOU KINDLY FOR GIVING MY GRANDSON A RICE BALL EARLIER.
WHAT? OH NO, THAT WASN'T ME...
THANK YOU FOR FINDING MY LOST CHILD!
AND MY WALLET!
AND FOR CARRYING MY BAGS!
EH...
EH...
EH...
どぢ3
どぢ3
どぢ3
E-20
SFX: CROWD GATHERING

!!
WE CAME TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE.
AND THERE'S A LABEL ATTACHED WITH THE NUMBER OF THIS BOOTH!
I GOT IT FROM THE NICE MISTER WHO GAVE ME THAT RICE BALL!
THAT STRAW ...
THIS STUFF IS TOTALLY CRAZY!
WAH, CREEPY!
HOW ODD ...
THIS ONE'S FUNNY, GRAN-GRAN!
YOU... THINK SO?
LOOK, MOMMY! THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE DADDY!
HEY, LOOK THERE!
OOH! IT'S PACHI-MON!
THIS ONE, PLEASE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

IN THE END, I SOLD EVERY-THING...
Everything I brought, anyway...
SO WHY AM I NOT HAPPY ...?
I CAME TO HELP YOU, MISA!
.....
Proceeds

I GUESS I SHOULD THANK HIM THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM.

I'M BACK!
AAAAAA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? YOU PERVERT!!
WHAT AM I DOING? I'M THE STRAW MILLIONAIRE, RIGHT?
WHAT DOES THE STRAW MILLIONAIRE HAVE TO DO WITH BEING NAKED!?
WELL, YOU SEE...

THANKS FOR THE RICE, KID.
Suzuki bum
THE TRUTH IS, I SOLD EVERYTHING I OWNED TO BUY THESE CDS...
Kinda regret it now, though.
AB1K48
THAT SOUNDS TOUGH...
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
STRIP

IT'S FINE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE NEEDED HELP.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP HIM.
YOU'RE NOT THE STRAW MILLIONAIRE, YOU'RE THE "MOST FOOLISH TRAVELER IN THE WORLD"!
From that fairy tale.

T/N: AS TOLD IN THE ANIME "FRUITS BASKET"